

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/618,729

Examiner

Adrienne C. Johnstone

Applicant(s)

SHIMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 15 July 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2 from 071503 ; 100303
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1733

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the abstract

to eliminate superfluous language thereby reducing the abstract length to the required 150 words or less, in lines 2-4 "which can achieve both workability of tire-to-rim fit and durability for run-flat traveling. The tire/wheel assembly is formed as follows: a" has been changed to -- . A -- .

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figure 7 will be designated by the legend -- Prior Art -- in order to clarify what is applicants' invention (MPEP 608.02(g)). In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Hellweg et al. (6,463,974 B1), Glinz et al. (6,463,976 B1), German Patent 102 08 613 C1, and German Patent Application 101 61 365 A1 all disclose examples of the prior art tire/wheel assembly including a run-flat support member similar to the claimed tire/wheel assembly including a run-flat support member but wherein the elastic rings are not attached to the sidewalls of the leg portions while abutting without engagement the bottom walls of the leg portions as required by the claims. West German Patent Application 1 176 013 discloses a tire/wheel assembly including a run-flat support member similar to the claimed tire/wheel assembly including a run-flat support member but wherein the elastic rings are axially sandwiched between the bottom walls of the leg portions of

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the circular shell and the tire beads, therefore the elastic rings are not capable of supporting the leg portions of the circular shell on the rim (radially inside the bottom walls of the leg portions) as required by the claims and the elastic rings are not attached to the sidewalls of the leg portions while abutting without engagement the bottom walls of the leg portions as required by the claims. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest applicants' tire/wheel assembly and run-flat support member therefor, including the elastic rings supporting the leg portions of the circular shell on the rim and attached to the sidewalls of the leg portions while abutting without engagement the bottom walls of the leg portions, in the claimed environment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571)272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30AM-7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571)272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

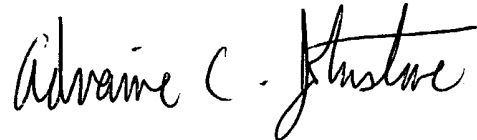
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Adrienne Johnstone

September 30, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne C. Johnstone". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.